

Poster Abstracts

P38: FIRST REPORT OF ALEUTIAN DISEASE IN A LEAST WEASEL (*MUSTELA NIVALIS*)

Loukopoulos Panayiotis¹, Billinis Charalambos², Tsalie Eleftheria²

¹Faculty of Veterinary Medicine, Aristotle University, Thessaloniki, Greece

²Faculty of Veterinary Medicine, University of Thessaly, Karditsa, Greece.

plouk@vet.auth.gr

Introduction: Aleutian disease (AD) is a slow infection caused by a parvovirus (ADV) and almost exclusively concerns the mink, although antibodies have been demonstrated in other species.

Materials and Methods: Gross pathology, histopathology and PCR were used to establish the diagnosis of AD in an eight-month-old male least weasel.

Results: The animal was found dead at the Thessaloniki Zoo. It had decreased appetite for 3-4 days. It had been kept as a pet and was donated to the zoo two months prior to its death. In both places it was housed alone. On necropsy, it was cachectic and showed diffuse alopecia. Multiple small whitish foci were scattered throughout the lungs. The liver and spleen were severely enlarged. Histologically, severe multifocal or diffuse plasma cell infiltrations of various organs were observed. Using PCR, ADV DNA was detected from various organs.

Discussion and Conclusion: The source of infection in the present case is unknown; given the fact that no mink or other Mustelidae were kept at the zoo. It is possible that it was another animal carrying the virus, that came in contact with the weasel, most likely while it was kept as a pet. AD is reported for the first time in this species.